Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 080083

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PBOR, PDIP, MOPS, ASEC, DJ, ET, SO

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN CHARGES OF US CONNIVANCE WITH SOMALIA AGAINST THE INDEPENDENCE OF DJIBOUTI

REF: DJIBOUTI 434; ADDIS ABABA 1382

1. CHARGE SHOULD APPROACH EITHER PRESIDENT GOULED OR PRIME MINISTER KAMIL (OR BOTH) AND SAY THAT WE ARE DISTURBED BY RECENT EPMG STATEMENTS WHICH ACCUSE USG OF PLOTTING WITH GSDR AGAINST THE INDEPENDENCE OF ROD. AS DJIBOUTI LEADERS WILL HAVE RECOGNIZED, SUCH ACCUSATIONS ARE TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. WE ARE MAKING A FORMAL PROTEST IN ADDIS ABABA CONCERNING THESE STATEMENTS.

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2. CHARGE SHOULD ADD THAT SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC REMAINS A KEY ELEMENT IN US POLICY TOWARDS THE HORN. WE HAVE NOT RECENTLY PUBLICLY LINKED DJIBOUTI WITH QUESTION OF SOMALI IRREDENTISM BECAUSE WE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WISE TO CALL INTO DOUBT SOMALI DENIALS OF ANY TERRITORIAL CLAIM ON DJIBOUTI. SOMALI REPRESENTATIVES HAVE REPEATEDLY

ASSURED US THAT THEY SOUGHT ONLY THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE DJIBOUTI POPULATION, AND, THAT POPULATION HAVING CHOSEN INDEPENDENCE, THE SOMALI GOVERN-MENT WOULD RESPECT THEIR CHOICE.

3. HOWEVER, IN ALL OF OUR DISCUSSIOMS WITH THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT--INCLUDING THOSE OF SPECIAL EMISSARY RICHARD MOOSE--ABOUT SECURITY IH THE HORN OF AFRICA, AND ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT THAT AS A CONDITION FOR AMERICAN ASSISTANCE WE WILL REQUIRE A COMMITMENT FROM THE GSDR THAT IT WILL RESPECT ITS NEIGHBOR'S BORDERS, WE HAVE MADE VERY CLEAR THAT WE REFER TO ALL THREE OF SOMALIA'S NEIGHBORS--ETHIOPIA, DJIBOUTI AND KENYA. COOPER

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TAGS: PBOR, PDIP, MOPS, ASEC, DJ, ET, SO

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